

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RONALD J. TENPAS
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

NOVEMBER 1, 2005

Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on October 27, 2005, **BARBARA J. TIMMONS**, a/k/a “BJ,” age 41, of Marion, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. TIMMONS, who had previously pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging her with conspiracy to distribute 5 grams or more of crack cocaine, was sentenced to 135 months’ imprisonment, 5 years’ supervised release, and was fined \$200.

The violation took place between August 2003, and April 18, 2005, in Williamson County. Co-defendant VINCENT D. WILLIAMS, a/k/a “Million Dollar Bill,” has pled guilty and is awaiting sentencing.

The investigation was conducted by the Southern Illinois Enforcement Group, Marion Police Department, Williamson County Sheriff’s Department, Illinois State Police and Drug Enforcement Administration, pursuant to those agencies’ participation in the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative in the Southern District of Illinois. In addition, the Williamson County States Attorney’s Office assisted throughout the investigation. Under the Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors are working together to prosecute drug dealers, felons in possession of firearms, and criminals that use firearms to commit violent offenses or drug trafficking offenses.

The case was assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Amanda A. Robertson for prosecution.